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**STATEMENT BY GEORGE PARKER, PRESIDENT,
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ON TERMINATION STATUS OF 241 DC TEACHERS**

WASHINGTON—It has been five days since the nation was informed that the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) plans to terminate 241 teachers, and the union has yet to receive even their names.

Immediately upon learning, on July 23, of Chancellor Rhee's plans to terminate an estimated 241 teachers, the Washington Teachers' Union requested that DCPS provide the names of the teachers slated to be terminated, along with copies of their termination notices showing the rationale for dismissal. We were told the information was not available and would be provided to us as soon as possible. We followed up this morning with a second request for information, and again were told DCPS would get back to us shortly. Our request for information remains unfulfilled.

It is troubling that DCPS can be so certain of the number of teachers to be fired, yet seems to be unable to provide the names of these individuals or the facts behind their terminations. As their collective bargaining agent, the WTU is entitled to this information. This non-responsiveness reflects the lack of transparency that has been a hallmark of Chancellor Rhee's tenure at DCPS. Is this an intentional manipulation of the facts to be shared with the union, in an effort to limit the union's ability to get to the truth behind the terminations?

As education professionals, teachers deserve better than to be informed less than one month before the school year begins that they don't have a job. Parents, students and the community have a right to know who will be standing in their classrooms prepared to teach on Day One.

It seems Chancellor Rhee has learned nothing from the debacle caused by last year's termination of 266 teachers at the beginning of the school year. Recent history has shown that while the chancellor is quite comfortable making drastic cuts to school staff, transparency and timing have not been her strong suit.

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